

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

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S E C R E T NATO 02775

LIMDIS

FOR SECRETARY VANCE, SECRETARY BROWN, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES HARTMAN AND MCGIFFERT, AND AMBASSADOR OWEN FROM AMBASSADOR BENNETT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, NAC, DPC, MPOL, PFOR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON DEFENSE ISSUES AT NATO SUMMIT

1. TO HELP INSURE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON NATO DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NATO SUMMIT ARE PURSUED AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE IN THE ALLIANCE AFTER THE SUMMIT, I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT HIS REMARKS TO THE COUNCIL ON THESE MATTERS BE SPECIFIC ENOUGH TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF ALLIED LEADERS FOR THE DEFENSE PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR NATO THAT SECRETARY BROWN WILL BE ELABORATING IN GREATER DETAIL TO DEFENSE MINISTERS AT THEIR MAY 17-18 MEETING.

2. SECRETARY BROWN, WE UNDERSTAND, WILL PROPOSE TWO NATO INITIATIVES: (A) THE FORMULATION OF A LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM FOCUSED ON REMEDYING KEY MILITARY DEFICIENCIES

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AND (B) IMMEDIATE ALLIANCE STEPS TO DEAL WITH THREE CRITICAL AREAS OF DEFICIENCY: (1) ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS, (2) WAR RESERVE STOCKS, AND (3) SOME MAJOR READINESS SHORTCOMINGS.

3. SINCE IT WOULD NOT SEEM APPROPRIATE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO DEAL IN DETAIL WITH THE US PROPOSALS, I SUGGEST THAT THE FOLLOWING BRIEF FORMULATION, INSERTED IN THE TEXT

AT THE POINT WHERE IT ADDRESSES THE PROPOSED NATO DEFENSE PROGRAM, WOULD SERVE THE PURPOSE AND USEFULLY INFLUENCE OUR ALLIES: QTE IN ADDITION TO DEVELOPING A LONGER-TERM PROGRAM, I BELIEVE THE ALLIES SHOULD IMMEDIATELY UNDERTAKE SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS IN A FEW AREAS OF CRITICAL DEFICIENCY IN THEIR DEFENSE POSTURE. SECRETARY BROWN WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS IN THE MEETING OF NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS NEXT WEEK. END QTE. BENNETT

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